

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
September 17, 2009
(Approved October 15, 2009)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), Pam Rubio (PSR) and Pam Saunders. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Barbara Finch and Robin Seaman were present as member guests.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the August 20, 2009 minutes.

Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the August 20, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, stated that he had no report at this time.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported on the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) meeting held on September 16, 2009. The CTMB voted to approve funding for the following studies:

- ☒ \$10,000 from the Donor Advised Fund at the AKC/Canine Health Foundation for partial funding of a hemangiosarcoma study at the University of Minnesota. This is a multi-faceted study with the potential for determining breed specific genetic profiles, improved treatments for all dogs, and comparative disease characterization for human medicine.
- ☒ \$20,000 from the Donor Advised Fund at the AKC/Canine Health Foundation for partial funding of the following three studies:
 - \$10,000 for a balloon valvoplasty procedure at the University of Florida. This study will explore a balloon valvoplasty procedure for canines with SAS. They will use a balloon procedure that incorporates cutting blades to score/cut the fibrous ring inherent to SAS to prevent it from re-forming. This is a treatment option that would increase the life span of the dog.
 - \$5,000 for a study of the function of stem cells in lymphoma at the University of Michigan. This study will concentrate on the function of stem cells in lymphoma. Does a population of stem cells become enriched and drive the cancer cells? The goal is to discover these cancer stem cells and target their disruption.

- \$5,000 for a lymphoma study at Colorado State University. This study will use real time PCR to detect the residual that cannot be otherwise identified in biological samples.

Mary Lou reported that the CTMB is moving ahead with other funding projects now under study.

There was a brief discussion about the efficacy of the SAS study and whether the NCA Board, acting as the Trustee, has any veto power over projects. It was determined that there is no provision for a veto by the Trustee. There was also a discussion as to whether priority should be given to studies that concentrate more on prevention rather than medical or surgical procedures. It was suggested that the CTMB research the procedures used by other parent clubs to approve their funding projects. It was suggested that at the November 6-8, 2009 face-to-face meeting, the Board develop a philosophical statement as to the focus of the studies.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, stated that her report will be contained in the committee reports.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the August 20, 2009 minutes and the September 17, 2009 agenda packet.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported on the progress with the recordings of the meetings being placed on the *NCA Website*. The recordings have been broken into blocks with indexes. It was the consensus of the Board that the recordings be held until the minutes for that meeting have been approved and are ready for publication. The recordings will be linked to the appropriate minutes. There was some discussion about the recordings and the minutes being password-protected for use only by the membership. It was the consensus of the Board that the minutes and the recordings be available to everyone until the development of the members-only section of the *NCA Website* and then the Board should revisit this issue. It was asked if it is possible to count the number of hits on the recordings. Pat will check with Marylou Zimmerman, NCA Webmaster.

Pat reported on several letters he had received asking for veterinary advice and opinions of certain dog foods. There was agreement that the Board needs a policy to address these kinds of questions. Pat volunteered to draft some ideas for consideration at the November 6-8, 2009 face-to-face meeting.

Pat reported that he had cast the NCA's vote for the AKC Lifetime Achievement Awards; sent a check from the NCA to the Military Working Dog Team Support Association; clarified the distribution of OFA information with OFA and reported on a letter regarding a fund-raising proposal from Dr. Jean Dodds.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$19,459.69; savings account: \$36,260.30; invested in CDs: \$210,418.99; and the NCA operations balance total of \$266,138.98 with \$4,208.23 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$7,572.43 for a total of \$273,711.41.

Mary informed the Board that she expects the NCA will meet or exceed the budgeted amount for dues renewal. She reported on two invoices received from Ascent Systems, Inc regarding the NCA Database. It was agreed to wait for Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Chair, before approving the invoices.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported on the September 15, 2009 AKC Delegates meeting in Newark, New Jersey. She informed the Board that she had missed the Delegates Standing Committee meeting due to a previous commitment.

She reported that the vote on the Group re-alignment proposal has been delayed. The AKC Board had voted to delay the vote and the AKC Delegate Body approved that decision. It was said that several parent clubs were not in favor of the switch of their breeds to the new groups and they had asked for a postponement of the vote. The vote may be re-scheduled for the March 2009 Delegates Meeting and the proposal may be broken down into four separate sections.

Mary stated that the AKC Delegates approved the division of the 12 – 18 month class into a 12 – 15 month class and 15 - 18 month class effective January 2010. The division of these classes will be at the pleasure of the show-giving club.

Mary informed the Board that there was a great deal of discussion of the proposed Grand Champion title. This proposal may be voted on at the December 2009 AKC Delegates meeting. Information on this new title is available on the AKC website.

Mary stated that the AKC is considering recognizing the titles awarded by some parent clubs for Working Dog Sports. It was emphasized that it is the recognition of the title and not the event itself as the Working Dog Sports are controversial.

She reported that NCA members Fred Bock had been re-elected to a three-year term on the All-Breed Standing Committee and Connie Vanacore had been elected to a two-year term on the Canine Health Standing Committee.

Mary reminded the Board that the new AKC Mixed Breed program will start in October 2009. She also brought to the Board's attention an article on parent club health surveys written by Eddie Dziuk of OFA. This article appears in *Perspectives*, the AKC Delegates' newsletter.

In recognition of the AKC's 125th anniversary, Mary reported that the "Meet the Breeds" exhibition, to be held in New York City, has attracted 146 parent clubs, 16 corporate sponsors, 82 vendors, 40 cat breeds and 87 legislators as honorary chairpersons.

Mary reported on a letter that she had written to William Secord, who will be speaking to The Kennel Club (England) on dog art, regarding the NCA's contributions to the restoration of the "Distinguished Member of the Humane Society". Mr. Secord thanked Mary for the information which he did not have.

Committee Reports

At 9:20 p.m., Barbara Finch and Robin Seaman joined the teleconference.

Technical Resources Committee

Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Committee Chair, reported the good news to the Board that the NCA Database was ready. She will be emailing the Board information about the database and she encouraged Board members to check their dogs and to let her know of any corrections or omissions. After two weeks, the committee hopes to launch the website for use by NCA members. There will be errors and omissions and the committee wants to emphasize to the membership to send in the corrections using the forms available on the website.

There was discussion of the best way to announce the launch to the membership. It was suggested that a special edition of the *NCA e-notes* be used. This will not incur any additional expense to the NCA.

It was reported that the next issue of the *Annual of Titlists* will have the health information for each dog listed as usual. Following issues will not list health information as all the information will be available on the *NCA Website*.

Barbara reported that titles such as CGC and TDI will not be listed in the database, but will be listed in the next issue of the *Annual of Titlists*. The committee is working on a way to add requalifications to the working dog titles.

Barbara stated that she will be writing to the Newfoundland Club of Canada to request that the list of dogs earning their titles in Canada be forwarded directly to the Technical Resources Committee.

The Board discussed the two recent invoices received from Ascent Systems, Inc. It was stated that this should be the last large bill until Phase II of the database is started.

Pam Rubio moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board approve payment to Ascent Systems, Inc. of the two invoices totaling \$8,027.50 for the NCA Database. The motion passed unanimously.

Ascent Systems, Inc. has asked Barbara if they could promote the program to other breed clubs. There was a discussion about electronic ownership and intellectual property. It was agreed that nothing should be agreed to without the opinion of an attorney with experience in intellectual properties. It was suggested that the original contracts with Ascent Systems, Inc. be reviewed.

At 9:35 p.m., Barbara Finch left the teleconference.

Specialty Show Coordinating Committee

Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee Chair, asked the Board to approve a one-time waiver for the New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club to hold back-to-back regional specialties next year. The New-Pen-Del club had a regional specialty scheduled for the Saturday of a 4-day cluster. The all-breed club who usually held a show the day before on Friday has dropped out of the cluster. To maintain entries, the remaining all-breed clubs have offered that Friday to clubs to hold independent regional specialties. The New-Pen-Del club requested a waiver to hold the two regional specialties back-to-back.

Robin reported that these events had transpired all within the last week and that time was short to apply to AKC for the Friday independent regional specialty. She had contacted the other members of the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee and of those members that she reached, everyone approved of the waiver. The committee and Robin did not feel that the approval of the back-to-back regional specialties would adversely affect the National Specialty.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve a one-time waiver for the New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club to hold back-to-back regional specialties on April 9-10, 2010. The motion passed. 11 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, RF, SM, KM, MLP, PKR, MLR, PSR, PS); 1 Abstention (MR)

Robin informed the Board that the 2010 National Specialty packet would be posted to the *NCA Website* soon.

At 10:00 p.m., Robin Seaman left the teleconference.

Membership Committee

Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Committee Chair, requested the Board's approval to insert the Judges Education Committee's DVD that recently went out to the membership in each of the welcome packets that are sent to new NCA members. The welcome packet already contains the *Illustrated Guide*, *Breeders List* and the *NCA Directory* as well as a club decal. The DVDs are inexpensive to produce and would not add to the postage already being paid to mail the welcome packets.

Mary Lou Cuddy moved and Kathy McIver seconded to include the Judges Education Committee's DVD in the new members' welcome packets. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Lou also reported that the supply of the club decals is getting low. She will research types of decals and pricing.

Legislation Liaison

The Board commented favorably on the committee's report on the fight against anti-dog legislation in California. It was reported that the committee is working on an article for *Newf Tide*. A suggestion was made that the committee use the *NCA e-notes* to highlight their website page and to keep the membership informed on important legislation.

Breeder Education Committee

The Board considered the proposed *Best Breeding Practices* which incorporated the comments from the previous Board meetings. There were some discussions concerning the wording in the sections related to temperament and behavior, maintaining diversity and health screening. Some Board members felt the document needed to be firmer in the statements that these practices are expected to be followed.

Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the *Best Breeding Practices* as amended. The motion passed. 8 Yes (LA, JB, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, PS); 4 No (MLC, RF, SM, MLR)

Health & Longevity Committee

Jennifer Zablony, Health & Longevity Committee Chair, requested that the committee receive the health information gathered from OFA reports. Specifically the committee is interested in the diseases reported and their frequencies from the health surveys turned in with the CHIC DNA samples.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Health & Longevity Committee Chair be copied on correspondence received from OFA regarding the information developed from the CHIC, DNA and OFA health reports. The motion passed unanimously.

At 1:56 p.m., Mary W. Price left the teleconference.

Electronic Publications Policy Committee

The Board reviewed the materials in the agenda packet and by consensus decided to table further discussion until the next teleconference and to invite Marylou Zimmerman to attend.

Working Dog Committee

The Board discussed the inclusion of the WRDX survey in the next issue of *Newf Tide*. The Working Dog Committee had requested the survey be included as an insert. The committee was reminded that it would cost the committee \$400 to send it as an insert. There was discussion that a half-page ad would be more feasible with links to the survey which would be posted on the *NCA Website*. It was agreed that the committee would re-consider their options.

Committee Evaluation Survey

It was reported that the *ad hoc* committee of Board members was making good progress in the development of this survey. The committee is planning to send the survey to Marylou Zimmerman for posting so Board members could take the actual survey online and preview how the results will be forwarded.

Regional Club Liaison

The Board considered the proposed revision to the North Central Newfoundland Club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the proposed revisions to the North Central Newfoundland Club's Constitution and Bylaws as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

At 11:07 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 12:00 a.m., Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Recording Secretary reported the Board had approved the Applicants List dated August 20, 2009.

While in executive session, the Board approved asking a Board member to discuss proper committee communications with a committee member.

While in Executive session, the Board accepted the resignation of Karen Steinrock from the committee. The Board agreed to ask the committee for recommendations to fill the position.

Unfinished Business

Ethics Guide

The Board considered the revised proposed *Ethics Guide*. There was discussion about the placement of the statements regarding *prima facie* and AKC suspensions.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the *Ethics Guide* as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Fall Face-to-Face Board Meeting

The Board discussed plans for the November 6-8, 2009 fall face-to-face meeting to be held at Honor's Haven in Ellenville, New York. Concern was expressed about the hotel not having the 13 rooms needed due to a conference being held at the hotel. Mary L. Price and Roger Frey, along with Barbara Yerks, will contact the hotel and work out the final arrangements.

Adjournment

At 12:56 a.m., Pam Saunders moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary